

News Release

CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD

9821 Business Park Drive, Sacramento, California 95827
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 26000, Sacramento, CA 95826

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www.cslb.ca.gov



CONTACT: Denise Price
858-537-9741

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Free Video Helps Seniors Avoid Home Improvement Scams

SACRAMENTO — A new 12-minute video informing homeowners about how to avoid costly pitfalls associated with hiring and managing building contractors is now available at no cost to Adult Education Centers. “Doing it Right – Hiring a Licensed Contractor” was produced by the California Contractors State License Board as a public service.

“Unlicensed contractors often target senior citizens, and this video will provide helpful information and tips for senior homeowners,” Contractors State License Board Registrar Stephen P. Sands said. “This video is a must see for any senior considering a home remodeling or repair project.”

To order the “Doing it Right – Hiring a Licensed Contractor” videotape or dvd, please call Denise Price at 858-537-9741. Please allow two weeks for delivery.

Hosted by former “*Good Morning America*” reporter Beth Ruyak, the video offers information on how to check a contractor’s license, how to handle payment and what do to if a problem occurs. Additionally, it offers the following tips:

1. Hire only licensed contractors.
2. Check contractor’s license number at (800) 321-2752 or www.cslb.ca.gov.
3. Get three references and review past work.
4. Get at least three bids.
5. Get a written contract and don’t sign anything until you completely understand the terms.
6. Pay 10% down, or \$1,000 whichever is less.
7. Don’t let payments get ahead of work. Keep records of payments.
8. Don’t make final payment until you’re satisfied with the job.
9. Don’t pay cash.
10. Keep a job file of all papers relating to your project.

For more information about how to hire a contractor, or to check the status of a contractor’s license, call (800) 321-CSLB or go to www.cslb.ca.gov.

The Contractors State License Board operates under the California Department of Consumer Affairs. The Contractors State License Board licenses and regulates California’s 278,000 contractors and investigates 25,000 complaints against contractors annually.